



ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY'S

JULY/AUGUST 2026 ISSUE

Editor's email: mirrie1@sky.com

Articles for the September issue to me by 20th August 2026 please.

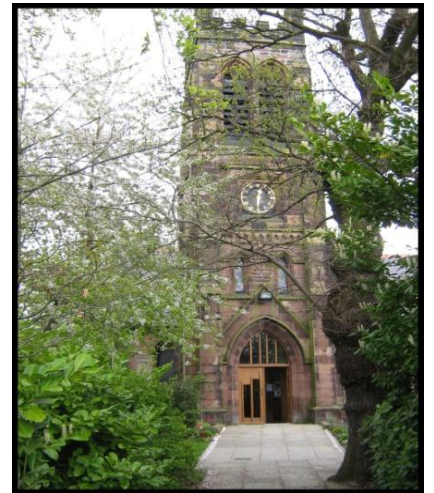
Church website www.halewoodparish.org



Please feel free to send me any articles that may be of interest to our readers.

Email address above.

Margaret



Father,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord, to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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Administrator: Jessica Forrester - Mon to Fri 9 am to 1 pm

St Nicholas Centre, 70 Church Road
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Friday is my normal day off

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MINISTRY MESSAGE

Sabbath Rest

Over July and August I will be taking some time out from normal church ministry for a study leave break/sabbatical. Liverpool Diocese offer this time to clergy after 7 years in role. It is very generous of them as well as our clergy team of Phil, Gareth and James to help facilitate this. Not forgetting to mention those in St Hilda's who will cover me.

This idea of taking time out from normal duties is a biblical one, which is also reflected in our society today. The sabbath was first mentioned in the Bible in the story of creation, when God worked for 6 days and then rested from this. The Law given to the people of Israel also reflected this, as God gave them specific times when they were to abandon everyday work for a holy day(s). This happened every 7 days and there were different festivals that the Israelites were commanded to observe. So important was this command to them, that if someone refused to participate in this enforced holy day then they were to be 'cut off' from their people.

Clearly then God takes rest and recreation very seriously. We were not meant to work constantly without a break. Now, each will respond to time off in different ways: we may resent enforced rest; others may welcome it; still others perhaps feel guilty that they are not doing something. Work is an important part of life, what we do with our time to earn a living should be life giving. However, it is also important to factor in time when you don't have to plan, think, or be active in employment. We need to learn to slow down and 'smell the roses' - enjoy creation, and our creator. It is obviously also important to reconnect with family and friends.

During my break, I will be walking the North Wales Pilgrims way from Holywell to Bardsey Island with Jen. This will provide time to be physically active as well as an opportunity to reflect on the Bible and hopefully witness to others we meet about Jesus. When not doing this, I will spend time studying about worship, prayer and witness. I will also catch up on a few household chores that need attention. In all I hope that by taking time out I might hear what God may be saying to me more clearly and be refreshed for ministry on my return.

If you are feeling a bit over worked at the moment, perhaps bring this to God and ask if there is something that you can lay down. This may seem naive, but we all need to have a good work/life balance. Are you able to have a whole day off each week? Are you able to make space for God in your week to be spiritually refreshed and hear His voice? (We need a holiday from work but not one from God.) We need to learn to not take upon ourselves something that God is asking us to give to Him. Jesus said in Matthew 11 v 28-30 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light'.(NIV)

Modern life demands much from us and does not always value rest and yet this is what we were created for. So may each of us know the rest that God can give us and from that rest work more effectively.

Andy

JULY & AUGUST SERVICES

- Thursday 2nd July: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 5th July: ***Proper 9 (Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67 & Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Carol Burke
11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Rev John Lansley
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Adam Grey
- Thursday 9th July: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F
- Sunday 12th July: ***Proper 10 (Genesis 25:19-34, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)***
10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
11.00 am St Nicholas GJMC/Parade: Gill Pinnington
6.30 pm St Nicholas Evening Worship: Geoff Pinnington
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: James H-F
- Thursday 16th July: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Sunday 19th July: ***Proper 11 (Genesis 28:10-19a, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship/Baptism: James H-F & Helen McGuinness
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Phil Saltmarsh
6.30 pm **St Mary's Grassendale** Inaugural Service for Christ our Light
11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 23rd July: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F
- Sunday 26th July: ***Proper 12 (Genesis 29:15-28, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52)***
10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship & Pre Holiday Club Service: Mike Sutcliffe
11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: James H-F
1.00 pm St Nicholas Baptisms: James H-F
6.30 pm St Nicholas Youth Led Service: James H-F & 'Thrive'
11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
- Thursday 30th July: 9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: David Goodwin

Sunday 2 nd August:	<i>Proper 13 (Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21)</i> 10.30 am St Mary Joint End of Holiday Club Service: Mike Sutcliffe 10.30 am St Nicholas <i>See above</i> 6.30 pm St Nicholas <i>NO SERVICE</i> 11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: James H-F
Thursday 6 th August:	9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
Sunday 9 th August:	<i>Proper 14 (Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Matthew 14:22-33)</i> 10.30 am St Mary Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan 11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Helen McGuiness 6.30 pm St Nicholas <i>NO SERVICE</i> 11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Phil Saltmarsh
Thursday 13 th August:	9.30 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Helen McGuiness
Sunday 16 th August:	<i>Proper 15 (Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:21-28)</i> 10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: David Goodwin 11.00 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F 6.30 pm St Nicholas <i>NO SERVICE</i> 11.00 am St Hilda Morning Worship: Gareth Morgan
Thursday 20 th August:	9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: James H-F
Sunday 23 rd August:	<i>Proper 16 (Exodus 1:8 - 2:10, Matthew 16:13-20)</i> 10.30 am St Mary Morning Worship: Adam Grey 11.00 am St Nicholas Morning Worship: Carol Burke 6.30 pm St Nicholas <i>NO SERVICE</i> 11.00 am St Hilda Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
Thursday 27 th August:	9.30 am St Nicholas Holy Communion: Gareth Morgan
Sunday 30 th August:	<i>Proper 17 (Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 16:21-28)</i> 11.00 am FULL TEAM SERVICE AT ST HILDA: Gareth Morgan & James H-F 6.30 pm St Nicholas <i>NO SERVICE</i>

Prayers - If you would like us to include someone in prayers on a Sunday morning and/or evening, there is a book at the back of each church to which you can add names. Please ask the duty warden/steward.

Our Curate's eagerly anticipated Ordination to Priest took place at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 20th June 2026.

The Rev James Hutchenson-Ferguson was ordained along with 9 others, with Bishop Ruth, the Bishop of Liverpool and Bishop Simon, Bishop of Warrington, presiding.

It was a wonderful event with lots of ceremony and pomp and there was a large and joyful attendance of well-wishers for each of the candidates, particularly our very own, James. We all stood up as his supporters as the laying on of hands took place.

Phase two of a great week-end took place at St Nicholas church, Halewood on the day after, where there was a joint service, during which James exercised his new authority to preside

over a Communion Service. That, too, was a very joyful occasion, with singing and responses reaching another level. Our Ordinand, Helen, preached a wonderfully fitting sermon conveying how important the eucharist, the sharing of bread and wine, is in remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross and in celebration of his resurrection. Our two Ministers and Ordinand in training were all fully robed, which added to the occasion.

A picnic then took place on the grass outside the Centre in beautiful weather.

The wonderful comments and feedback from participants sum up what a great asset the churches of Halewood and Hunts Cross have in our Curate James.





through a gap anymore).

The grass had grown fairly high and the pathway was bordered by some young oak trees. I spotted a fox out for a stroll too.

After a short walk along Hillfoot we crossed over to Woolton Woods and scaled Camp Hill. After a bit of a detour we managed to find the walled garden which is fairly well maintained and has the remains of a floral



PARISH WALK

May's walk was on Saturday the 20th. It was a beautiful morning as we set off from the St Nicholas Centre bound for our pre walk refreshments at Dobbies Garden centre.

Suitably sustained we then travelled by car to Allerton Hall. From the car park we wended our way through Clarkes Gardens towards Hillfoot Road. The perimeter fence in this area has been replaced with smart new railings and yellow gates - very smart (no more ducking

clock. After enjoying views of the Mersey and the mountains of Wales we dropped down into Woolton Village.

We continued onto Quarry Street before taking the footpath over the quarry wall that comes out at New Mill Style on Church Road. It was a short amble up to Reynolds Park from here for our lunch stop in the walled garden there. The shaded side of the garden had plenty of benches for our use and it was a



pleasant respite from the sunshine. Suitably sated we walked along Church Road before crossing over to Reservoir Road. This took us down to Quarry Street again and from there to Beaconsfield.

Strawberry Field was remarkably busy with tourists from far flung corners of the globe. However, the café area was quiet and some of the group treated themselves to ice creams which they enjoyed in the sunshine of the garden. One of the walkers has a named brick in the path as a commemoration for her late husband and she was keen to show it to us.



After Strawberry Fields we started our return journey via the footpath from Yew Tree Road to Allerton Golf Course. There were not too many golfers playing, so we felt it was safe to cross over the course on the public path, all the time keeping an eye open for stray golf balls.

We soon found ourselves crossing Woolton Road, entering Clarkes Gardens and arriving back at our sunbaked vehicles.

A lovely day spent with lovely people in green spaces close to where we live. Things do not get much better. *Penni*



THE NEXT WALK

The June walk on the 27th was cancelled because of the heat. Please see the notices for information about the next.

Live Steaming of services on YouTube

Thanks to some grant funding from Community Foundation Merseyside, we have installed cameras in St Nicholas' to enable us to live stream services on YouTube. The YouTube channel is called St Nicholas St Mary's Halewood Team and the direct link is: <https://bit.ly/halewood-ecumenical>



We are streaming Sunday and Thursday morning services live and it is also available for you to watch later. You may wish to make use of this if you are unable to attend church in person for any reason.

If you subscribe to our YouTube Channel (It's free) it will make it easier to access in future.

MOTHERS' UNION

At our meeting on 7th May we had a fantastic speaker who talked about the 'Threads of Tapestry' which was created by Jacqui Parkinson (a lady who took a degree in embroidery and textiles). Jacqui spent ten years on the tapestry, using 25 million stitches to cover key moments in the Bible. After the talk we decided to go to Chester Cathedral to see the exhibition.

It depicted Threads through Creation via the Gospels and Threads through the Cross to Threads through Revelation. It was a magnificent exhibition. It's next resting place is Lincoln Cathedral.

Georgina

CHURCH ATTENDANCE GROWS FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW

Church of England congregations saw their fifth year of growth in a row in 2025 with steady increases in weekly and Sunday attendance and strong growth in Christmas and Easter services, an early snapshot of official figures shows.

Overall, there were an estimated 1.023 million regular worshippers across Church of England congregations last year, up 1.4 per cent on 2024, according to preliminary returns for the annual *Statistics for Mission* report.

It is the fifth year in a row in which attendance both on Sundays and across the week have risen – the first time this has been seen since current records have been kept.

Just under two million people (1.96 million) joined services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day last year – up 5.5 per cent – in addition to 4.8 million attendances over Advent, a 2.0 per cent rise.

Easter attendance was up 7.8 per cent to just over one million (1.03 million).

Over a typical week an estimated 707,000 people attended Church of England services, up 0.7 per cent on the previous year, and 15.5 per cent higher than 2021 when attendance rebounded after Covid.

Meanwhile average attendance at Sunday services stood at 590,000 – up 1.6 per cent on the 2024 figure. Despite this recent growth, attendance and participation remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: “It is so encouraging to see the ways that God is at work in our Church. I give thanks for the clergy, lay people and volunteers who each week make people feel welcome in every parish across our country.”

Debbie Clinton, the Church of England’s Director for Vision and Strategy, said: “From our rural villages to our post-industrial towns, in parishes across the country, churches are reaching out to their communities and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our 2025 statistics are a testament to their hospitality and faithfulness. We praise God for all that He is doing in His Church.”

Thank you Parish Pump

15TH JULY – SAINT SWITHUN (OR SWITHIN) SAINT FOR A RAINY DAY

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Thank you Parish Pump

BAPTISMS – 28TH JUNE 2026

Olivia Emily Lalley at St Mary's
Betsy McCarten at St Nicholas
Bobby McCarten at St Nicholas

Funerals at St Nicholas' in June 2026			
3 June	Thomas Best	Age 94	Funeral and burial
17 June	David Longstaffe	Age 60	Funeral

DATES TO REMEMBER AND GROUPS

Next Vestry Date for Wedding and Baptism enquiries – 16th July 2026 7.00 - 7.45 pm at St Nicholas Centre.

Our email address for weddings is. halewoodparishweddings@gmail.com
Please use this to contact our Wedding Secretaries -

Our Baptism Secretary's email address is halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com



HALEWOOD UNI-WISE



WHEN: Every Saturday from
18th July to 22nd August, 10.30am - 12.30pm
WHERE: St Nicholas' Centre, Church Road, L26 6LA
FOR WHOM: Open to everyone for collection of free
preloved items of school uniform for local schools and
for donations of uniform items in good, clean condition.



This is an opportunity for anyone with school age children (nursery, primary or secondary) to pick up good, clean, nearly new and some brand new items of uniform and to pass on outgrown uniform items to others.

For more information visit
<https://www.facebook.com/halewooduniwise>

Please check the details of the groups and volunteers below and let me know if any of them have changed. Thank you, Margaret.

Bible Study

Bible study meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at the home of Mark and Vanessa Harrison. The study runs weekly and is on the Old Testament book of Daniel, a book that will equally challenge and encourage.

All are welcome to come and see what God has to teach us through the reading of his word.

For details please contact Mark and Vanessa personally or via the parish office email :

(Halewoodparish@btconnect.com)

Community Connect (formerly Warm Hub)

Join us every Thursday at 10.00 am in St Nicholas' Church for tea, coffee, juice and toast!
And every Monday 1.00 – 3.00 pm at St Mary's Church.

You will receive a warm welcome! Volunteers always needed! Please speak to James.

Elevate - New Youth Club for should Years 5 - 8

Elevate is a new youth club for those in Years 5 - 8 on a Sunday night from 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm in St Nic's Parish Centre. There'll be games and activities, real talk and faith discussions and a space to belong. For more information contact James on jameshf.pariah@gmail.com or just turn up this Sunday night. Parents will still need to attend the evening service to obtain a scan-in for schools' applications.

THRIVE — our new youth group!

We have started a brand new youth group for **Years 9 - 13** called **Thrive**. It's a place to hang out, have fun, and explore life and faith together. We'll be kicking off with the **Youth Alpha Course** — real talk, good vibes, and plenty of snacks!

 **Sunday, 7:30 - 9:00pm**  **St Nicks Centre, Halewood**

Please pray for this exciting new group — and spread the word to any teens who might want to come along! **Contact:** James - jameshf.pariah@gmail.com | **07954 857 058**

HALEWOOD ART CLUB —

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PLEASE CONTACT RANGER TONY on 07717301355 or 0151 488 6151

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Halewood Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union meets on the first Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00 pm at the St Nicholas' Centre. We would love to welcome some new members. The group has a programme of guest speakers and other events throughout the year.

You don't have to be a mother to be a member and men (known as Muscle men) are also welcome. For more information, please speak to Georgina McQueen.

Knowsley Older People's Fun Olympics (K.O.P.F.O.)

Are you aged 50 or over, looking to take part in an activity, and meet new friends? Why not come and join us at our weekly activity sessions held at the Halewood Leisure Centre, Baileys Lane, Halewood, L26 0TY.

We meet every Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Amongst the activities we play are:

- *Badminton*
- *Boccia (a game like bowls but played sitting down with soft leather balls)*
- *Indoor Bowls*
- *Curling*
- *Table Tennis*
- *Dominoes*
- *Draughts*
- *Scrabble*

The sessions are aimed at encouraging you to be active, socialise and having fun at the same time, so please come along where you will be made very welcome and quickly become one of the group. Cost is 90 pence per week. For further information, please ring Sue, a member of the team, on 0151 487 0974.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Both of our churches rely on the generosity of members of our congregation in giving up their time to volunteer in all kinds of ways. At St Nicholas and St Mary's we are very blessed with the number of volunteers we do have but there is always room for more.

Below is a list of some of the volunteering opportunities you might like to consider, a rough idea of what the time commitment might be and, where possible, details of whom to contact for further information. The list is not exhaustive and doesn't include roles which might require some specialist knowledge, such as finance skills, HR skills etc.

Reading and Leading Prayers at Services - Both Churches

On a rota, approximately once or twice a quarter.

Speak to Gill Dover at St Mary's or Alison Shacklady at St Nicholas' .

Sidespersons - Both Churches

Meeting and greeting people, giving out and collecting in service sheets, taking collection, tidying up after services.

On a rota approximately once or twice a quarter

Speak to wardens/steward.

Communion Stewards (St Mary's)

To help set up Communion and assist with administering Communion (2nd Sunday).

On a rota once a quarter.

Baptism Sponsors

At the moment just at St Nicholas' (but we would welcome a couple of volunteers for this role at St Mary's for the occasional baptism services which happen there).

Support families during Baptism services (1.00 pm on fourth Sunday of the month).

Approximately 3 or 4 times a year.

Contact Sally Moore, Baptism Secretary on halewood.baptisms@yahoo.com

Tea and Coffee before morning services at St Nicholas' and after morning services at St Mary's

On a rota, approximately two or three times a quarter.

Speak to wardens/steward.

Church Cleaning

St Nicholas' Friday mornings approx. 10.15 - 11.00 am.

Speak to Georgina McQueen or Lyn Green.

St Mary's - date and time can be arranged to suit.

Speak to Gill Dover or Jen Hargreaves.

Work with Children and Young People - All roles need a DBS check and Safeguarding training

Creche and Junior Church at St Mary's and St Nicholas' operate three Sundays per month during term times.

Help required on a rota basis.

For St Mary's contact Laura Fisher- laura_burke_09@hotmail.co.uk or Emma Rooney emma.creasy@btinternet.com

For St Nicholas Junior Church contact Hayley McShane hayleymcshane84@gmail.com

After School Clubs at St Mary's contact Mike Sutcliffe mike.circuitchildren@gmail.com

Sunday evening children's and youth groups, Elevate/Thrive contact James Hutchinson Feguson jameshf.parish@gmail.com

Volunteers are also often needed to help with Uniformed Organisations (Rainbows/Brownies/Guides).

Contact via <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

Gardening/Churchyard clearance

Occasional gardening working parties at both churches.

St Nicholas' contact Geoff Bullen geoffbullen@btinternet.com

St Mary's contact Pam Boffey pam.boffey@hotmail.com or Dave Crerar d.r.crerar@btinternet.com

Community Connect

St Mary's Church Monday afternoons 12.30 - 2.30 pm on a rota basis approx. once a month.

St Nicholas' Church Thursday mornings 10.00 am - 12 midday on a rota basis approx. once a month

Serving tea/coffee and toast and chatting to visitors.

Speak to James Hutchinson Feguson jameshf.parish@gmail.com

Baby Bank

St Mary's Saturday mornings 10-12. Sorting donated items and helping visitors find suitable baby items.

Speak to Jen Hargreaves jen@mattharg.co.uk

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